

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SES-02 SAA-01 SSM-03 IO-13  
EB-08 TRSE-00 /087 W  
-----043031 111125Z /10

O P 111045Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9193  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4656

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION: AUGUST 11, 1978 - 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4615 (DTG 100951Z AUG 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE EAST BEIRUT CEASE-FIRE IS STILL HOLDING.  
THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION REMAINS STUCK AT KAWKABA. FATAH AND  
PRO-IRAQI PALESTINIANS CLASHED IN SIDON. ABIE NATHAN'S PEACE  
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SHIP REMAINS ABOUT 10 KILOMETERS OFF EAST BEIRUT. TAPLINE  
ANNOUNCED IT WOULD SUSPEND CRUDE-OIL DELIVERIES TO THE TRIPOLI  
REFINERY. END SUMMARY.

2. SHAKY CEASE-FIRE HOLDING.

A. THE CEASE-FIRE CONCLUDED AUGUST 9 IS STILL HOLDING IN EAST

BEIRUT. ON AUGUST 10, SYRIAN SOLDIERS PULLED OUT OF ENCIRCLED POSITIONS IN THE HEART OF EAST BEIRUT AND WITHDREW TO THE RIZK TOWER. THERE WAS ONLY ONE INCIDENT DURING THE DISENGAGEMENT, A 20-MINUTE GUN BATTLE WHICH BROKE OUT WHEN SYRIANS WERE LEAVING A POSITION NEAR THE RIZK HOSPITAL. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, HOWEVER, AND THE PULL-OUT WAS COMPLETED.

B. THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 10-11 WAS GENERALLY CALM, ALTHOUGH CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN HIT AN ADF POSITION IN AYN-AR RUMMANEH WITH FOUR SHELLS, AND SEVERAL ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES HIT THE CHRISTIAN SUBURG OF HADATH. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT LE'JOUR, SUDANESE SOLDIERS WILL TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE KEY QARANTINA BRIDGE ON AUGUST 12 AS THE NEXT STEP IN THE DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS.

C. A SOUR NOTE WAS STRUCK BY NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HOWEVER. HE SAID: "I WANT THERE TO BE A TOTAL RETREAT AND AN EVACUATION OF THE SOLDIERS. IN MY OPINION, WHAT HAD BEEN DONE AND WHAT IS FORESEEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SECURITY PLAN REMAINS TOTALLY INSIGNIFICANT."

D. DANY CHAMOUN, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THERE HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SOFTENING OF THE SYRIAN POSITION BECAUSE OF "THE MORE ACTIVE ROLE OF CHIEF OF STATE ELIAS SARKIS." AS AN EXAMPLE OF SYRIAN CONCILIATION, DANY CITED A DAMASCUS RADIO BROADCAST WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME AFFIRMED THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY SHOULD TAKE UP POSITIONS IN EAST BEIRUT AS WELL AS IN THE SOUTH.  
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E. MUSLIM REACTION WAS MIXED. FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAAM SAID THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF LEBANESE DEPENDED ON THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN. SHAFIQ WAZZAN, SPOKESMAN FOR THE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC GROUPING, SAID THAT THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES WERE BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE THE ADVISABILITY OF SUCH A MOVE. THE LEFTIST INDEPENDENT NASSERIST MOVEMENT (AL MURABITOUN) DENOUNCED THE PLAN AS "UNJUSTIFIED," "UNTRUTHFUL", AND "IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT."

3. BATTALION STILL STUCK AT KAWKABA. THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION REMAINS HALTED AT KAWKABA. IT HAS BEEN THERE SINCE JULY 31. ON AUGUST 10, ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY MET WITH UNIFIL COMMANDER EMANUEL ERSKINE AND DEPUTY COMMANDER JEAN CUQ. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT LE JOUR, IT WAS AGREED TO SEND 300 ADDITIONAL SOLDIERS DIRECTLY TO TIBNIN FROM YARZE. RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCES, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT THE GOL PLANS TO DO NOTHING FOR THE MOMENT.

4. INTER-PALESTINIAN CLASH AT SIDON. FATAH AND THE PRO-IRAQI PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT CLASHED IN A FIRE-FIGHT IN THE OLD SECTOR OF SIDON ON AUGUST 10. THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IS

UNKNOWN.

5. THE PEACE SHIP. ABIE NATHAN'S PEACE SHIP REMAINS ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS OFF BEIRUT, OUTSIDE OF LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. ON AUGUST 10 HE ASKED PERMISSION TO ENTER THE PORT BECAUSE OF URGENT REPAIRS NEEDED BY HIS BOAT. THE GOL HAS REFUSED PERMISSION, HOWEVER.

6. ECONOMIC SITUATION. TAPLINE IN A LETTER TO MININDUSTRY DOUMIT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD SUSPEND CRUDE OIL DELIVERIES DESTINED TO GOL-OWNED TRIPOLI REFINERY UNTIL \$36 MILLION IN TRIPOLI ARREARAGES TO TAPLINE FOR MAY-JULY DELIVERIES IS PAID, MEDRECO (CALTEX-MOBIL) REFINERY OWES TAPLINE \$4 MILLION BUT WAS NOT CUT OFF. THERE IS PRESENTLY NO SHORTAGE OF REFINED PRODUCT IN COUNTRY. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMENT: GOL HAS BEEN IN ARREARS TO TAPLINE STEADILY SINCE EARLY 1977 AND WE VIEW SUSPENSION AS DISCIPLINARY ACTION ONLY. END COMMENT. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, GOL REVERSED ITS SUSPENSION OF SHORT-TERM TREASURY BOND SALES (BEIRUT 4555) UNDER PROTESTS FROM BANKING COMMUNITY AND WILL RESUME SALES OF 90-DAY PAPER AUGUST 15 AT 2.52 PERCENT, SOMEWHAT UNDER THE PRE-SUSPENSION RATE OF 2.625-2.75.

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## Message Attributes

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